

HERE and THERE

News of the Latest Developments in the Industry and Elsewhere

Seventy-ton Flying Boats?

NEXT Thursday, December 10, Mr. A. Gouge, B.Sc., F.R.Ae.S., chief designer to Short Brothers, Ltd., will lecture before the R.Ae.S. on "Recent Progress in the Design of Civil Flying Boats."

Mr. Gouge will show the effects of various characteristics on the performance and construction of the civil flying boats for which he has been responsible. In particular he draws attention to the great importance of high wing loading—up to 45 lb./sq. ft.—with the resultant improvements in cruising speed, range, economy of operation and gain in efficiency both from the flying point of view and during severe weather conditions at moorings. The author expresses the opinion that there are no problems to be solved in producing boats double the weight of the present Empire boats, and that such craft will be a necessity for operating services over long stretches of water.

He visualises boats taking off at speeds exceeding 100 m.p.h., of 160,000 lb. all-up weight, and 40 lb./sq. ft. loading, and adds, "it is difficult to foresee what will be the ultimate limit of wing loading."

The lecture will be illustrated and will be given in the lecture hall of the Royal Society of Arts, 18, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2, at 6.30 p.m. Non-members will be admitted only by ticket obtained through a member.

Comradeship

THAT the personnel of the proposed London kite balloon barrage would be organised more or less on Auxiliary Air Force lines, and would be recruited partly from those above the usual military age, was disclosed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Edward Ellington, Chief of Air Staff, speaking at the sixth annual reunion dinner of the Comrades of the Royal Air Forces Association in London last Saturday.

Sir Edward was replying to the toast of the Royal Air Force, and he gave his audience—an impressive one of 500-odd members of the Association—a masterly summing-up of the progress of the expansion scheme, both in regard to aircraft and personnel. In the case of the latter the greatest problem was to obtain skilled men, and one of the first steps that had been taken was to ask men who had left the Service to re-enlist; some 1,200, 500 of whom were skilled, had already done so.

Summing up his remarks on expansion, Sir Edward said "many of us regret the necessity for it, but it has been forced upon us by the action of others."

Mr. H. James, M.M., M.S.M., who proposed the toast to which Sir Edward had replied, told some amusing anecdotes of his own days in the air arm as long ago as 1912. In giving the toast he coupled with it the names of Sir Edward Ellington and Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, who was unfortunately unable to be present.

Other speakers included A.V.-M. C. A. H. Longcroft, Air Comdr. B. C. H. Drew (chairman of the Association), A.V.-M. Sir Philip Game, Mr. Turberville, Mr. J. R. Thomas, and Mr. C. G. Grey.

During the course of the evening a cup presented by the Mayor of Wandsworth and awarded for all-round efficiency and zeal, was received by Lord Sempill on behalf of the South London Branch of the Association.

It is, perhaps, not generally realised that the Comrades of the Royal Air Forces Association is open to serving members, and new members are constantly being recruited as new stations are established; membership is of the order of 7,000.

During the evening a reply was read from His Majesty the King, to whom loyal greetings had been sent.

Hawker-Siddeley Aircraft

AT the first general meeting of the Hawker-Siddeley Aircraft Co., Ltd., held on May 25, Mr. T. O. M. Sopwith, chairman of the company, said the board recommended the payment, out of net profits amounting to £378,000, of a cash dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, on the first 4,000,000 ordinary shares, and a bonus of one fully-paid ordinary share for every ten. Mr. Sopwith explained that dividends from subsidiary companies included a loan of £300,000 to Hawker Aircraft, Ltd., for extensions.

He also mentioned that the directors had under consideration the question of making an offer for that portion of the Hawker company's ordinary capital not at present owned by Hawker-Siddeley Aircraft. Mr. Sopwith concluded by recommending that a bonus of £5,000 should be allocated for distribution among employees, and that employees should be given an opportunity to acquire 20,000 of the unissued ordinary shares at par. Mr. H. K. Jones and Mr. H. A. Meredith were appointed directors of Hawker-Siddeley Aircraft.

It may be explained that the subsidiary companies are Armstrong-Siddeley Development Co., Ltd., Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., A. V. Roe and Co., Ltd., and Air Service Training, Ltd.

The appointments of directors result in Mr. Sopwith being chairman of all subsidiaries; Mr. F. S. Spriggs is managing director of all subsidiaries and of Hawker-Siddeley Aircraft; Mr. R. H. Dobson is on the board of A. V. Roe and Co., Ltd.; Mr. A. J. Austin and Mr. C. S. Oliver are on the board of Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd.; and Mr. H. K. Jones is on the boards of all subsidiaries and is general manager of the Hawker-Siddeley Aircraft Co., Ltd. There is no truth in the rumour that in future St. James's Square will be known as St. Jones's Square!

Forthcoming Events

- December 3. Herts and Essex Aeroplane Club : Annual Dinner and Dance, Park Lane Hotel, London.
- December 3. R.A.F. Flying Club : Annual Ball at Grosvenor House, London.
- December 9. Royal Society of Arts Lecture: "Artificial Resins," by Mr. H. V. Potter. Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, 8 p.m.
- December 10. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "Civil Flying Boats," by Mr. A. Gouge.
- December 15. R.Ae.S. Students' Section Joint Lecture with I.A.E. and I.P.T. : "Fuels for Aero Engines," by Mr. C. H. Barton. S.M.M.T., 83, Pall Mall, London, 7 p.m.
- December 17. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "Profile Drag," by Prof. Melville Jones.
- December 17. R.Ae.S. (Coventry Branch) Lecture : "The Queer Side of Flying," by Capt. J. Laurence Pritchard. Armstrong-Siddeley Canteen, 8 p.m.
- December 18. London Aeroplane Club : Dinner and Dance, Park Lane Hotel, London.

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- January 14. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "Magnesium Alloys," by Dr. C. H. Desch.

- January 28. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "Plastic Materials," by Dr. N. A. de Bruyne.
- February 3. Royal United Services Institution Lecture : "The Anti-Aircraft Defence of Great Britain," by Maj.-Gen. R. H. D. Thompson.
- February 5. Cinque Ports Flying Club : Annual Dinner and Dance.
- February 10. Yorkshire Aviation Services: Annual Ball, Grand Hotel, Harrogate, 8 p.m.
- February 11. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "The Automatic Pilot," by Mr. F. W. Meredith and Mr. P. A. Cooke.
- February 17. Royal United Services Institution Lecture : "Air Force Co-operation in Policing the Empire," by Air Comdr. C. F. A. Portal.
- February 18. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "Compression Ignition Engines," by Mr. A. H. R. Fedden.
- February 18. Civil Aviation Service Corps : Dance, First Avenue Hotel, London.
- February 25. R.Ae.S. Lecture* : "Power Measurements in the Air," by Mr. N. S. Muir.
- February 26. Brooklands and Associated Clubs : Dinner and Dance, May Fair Hotel, London.

* All R.Ae.S. lectures take place at the Royal Society of Arts, 18, John St., London, W.C.2, at 6.30 p.m. Admission is by ticket obtainable through a member.